

Appln No. 09/778,992

Amdt date March 3, 2004

Reply to Office action of November 3, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 7, and add new claims 8-22, as follows.

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) An optical switch comprising:

a plurality of optical to electronic (OE) interface units for receiving a plurality of demultiplexed signals respectively, each OE interface unit comprising:

an OE converter for converting a respective demultiplexed signal to a corresponding electrical signal, and

a data and clock recovery circuit for recovery of data and corresponding clocking information from the corresponding electrical signal and outputting said data as a respective recovered electrical signal, said data and clock recovery circuit recovering data streamed at multiple different clock rates and multiple different protocols;

an electronic switch for transmitting each of the respective recovered electrical signals to at least one of a plurality of output ports under control of an external control signal; and

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a plurality of electronic to optical (EO) interface units coupled to said plurality of output ports, respectively.

9. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of EO interface units comprises:

a data and clock recovery circuit for recovery of data and corresponding clocking information from the respective recovered electrical signal and outputting said data as a respective second data stream, said data and clock recovery circuit recovering data streamed at multiple different clock rates and multiple different protocols; and

an EO converter for converting the respective second data stream to a corresponding optical output stream.

10. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of EO converters comprises an externally modulated semiconductor laser source having wavelength specific output characteristics.

11. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 9, wherein each of the plurality of EO converters comprises a directly modulated semiconductor laser source having wavelength specific output characteristics.

12. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 8, wherein each data and clock recovery circuit extracts signal information for signal processing at multiple different clock rates and multiple different protocols.

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13. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 8, wherein each data and clock recovery circuit extracts signal information for performance monitoring at multiple different clock rates and multiple different protocols.

14. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a serial-parallel converter and a look-up table for illegal symbol detection in the extracted signal information.

15. (New) The switch as claimed in claims 13 or 14, wherein the performance monitoring comprises determining a packet-rate of one or more of the respective electrical signals.

16. (New) The switch as claimed in claims 8 or 9, further comprising at least a first demultiplexer for demultiplexing a wavelength division multiplexed signal into a respective demultiplexed signal; and at least a first multiplexer interconnected to the plurality of EO interface units for multiplexing optical output streams from a respective EO interface unit together to form a combined optical data stream output.

17. (New) An optical switch comprising:
a plurality of optical to electronic (OE) interface units for converting a plurality of demultiplexed optical signals to a plurality of corresponding electrical signals;

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an electronic switch for transmitting a respective electrical signal to at least one of a plurality of output ports; and

a plurality of electronic to optical (EO) interface units at said plurality of output ports, each EO interface unit comprising:

a first port for receiving a respective externally generated laser signal,

a modulator for modulating the respective received laser signal, and

a second port for passing the respective modulated laser signal to an external multiplexer for forming a combined optical data stream output.

18. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 17, wherein each OE interface unit comprises:

an OE converter for converting a respective demultiplexed signal to a corresponding electrical signal; and

a data and clock recovery circuit for recovery of data and corresponding clocking information from the corresponding electrical signal and outputting said data as a respective recovered electrical signal, said data and clock recovery circuit recovering data streamed at multiple different clock rates and multiple different protocols,

wherein the electronic switch transmits the respective recovered electrical signal to the at least one of the plurality of output ports.

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19. (New) An optical switch comprising:

a plurality of optical to electronic (OE) interface units for converting a plurality of demultiplexed optical signals to a plurality of corresponding electrical signals;

an electronic switch for transmitting a respective electrical signal to at least one of a plurality of output ports under control of an external control signal;

a plurality of electronic to optical (EO) interface units at said output ports; and

a plurality of tunable laser sources,

wherein each EO interface unit comprises:

a first port for receiving a laser signal from a respective tunable laser source,

a modulator for modulating the respective received laser signal, and

a second port for passing the respective modulated laser signal to an external multiplexer for forming a combined optical data stream output.

20. (New) The switch as claimed in claim 19, wherein each OE interface unit comprises:

an OE converter for converting a respective demultiplexed signal to the corresponding electrical signal; and

a data and clock recovery circuit for recovery of data and corresponding clocking information from the respective electrical signal and outputting said data as a respective recovered electrical signal, said data and clock recovery

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circuit recovering data streamed at multiple different clock rates and multiple different protocols,

wherein the electronic switch transmits the respective recovered electrical signal to the at least one of the plurality of output ports.

21. (New) The switch as claimed in claims 19 or 20, further comprising at least a first demultiplexer for demultiplexing a wavelength division multiplexed signal into the respective plurality of demultiplexed signals; and at least a first multiplexer interconnected to the plurality of EO interface units for multiplexing optical output streams from a respective EO interface unit together to form a combined optical data stream output.

~~22. (New) The switch as claimed in claims 19, further comprising~~

~~at least a first demultiplexer for demultiplexing a wavelength division multiplexed signal into corresponding spatially separated plurality of demultiplexed signals, wherein the first demultiplexer and the external multiplexer are interconnected to provide fault tolerant operation.~~